

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WILDLIFE IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTIONS TO BE CHANGED

Persons in the business of importing or exporting wildlife will be required to be licensed and maintain records of their activities under a new proposal by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director, announced today.

The proposed new rules, published in the March 27, 1978, Federal Register would also substantially revise, simplify, and clarify the requirements of a variety of laws relating to wildlife importation, exportation, and transportation.

Among the groups which will be required to obtain such licenses are persons who import and export wildlife for trade such as pet and animal dealers; for manufacture and sale such as furriers and factories producing leather products; for medical and pharmaceutical research; taxidermists; and freight forwarders.

Wildlife export controls are provided which are similar to those already existing for the import of wildlife and which require export through the same ports designated for wildlife importation.

Interested persons have until May 26, 1978, to comment on the proposal.

The close monitoring of the business activities related to wildlife is necessary as a statistical device and enforcement tool to aid in the management and control of commerce in endangered, threatened, and otherwise

(over)

protected wildlife. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 provides that persons who engage in business as importers or exporters of fish or wildlife (other than certain shellfish or fishery products) must obtain permission to do so.

Shortly after the law was passed, the Service on May 4, 1974, granted temporary permission to all such businesses to continue until regulations were adopted to implement that provision of the Act. This proposal contains these rules, clarifies the licensing requirement, and identifies persons who require licenses.

This proposal will also modify certain container marking requirements to simplify particular kinds of importations. For example, scientists importing unidentified wildlife for classification or survey purposes can do so, but must provide the Service with an amended declaration at a later date after the wildlife have been identified.

In addition, the proposal would change or delete certain border ports through which certain wildlife may enter the United States. These modifications reflect changes in traffic patterns through those ports.

Persons conducting businesses involving wildlife importation, exportation, or interstate commerce are urged to obtain a copy of this proposal.

Comments on the proposal should be addressed to the Director (LE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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